

## **Trends in Population-Based Incidence of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* among Infants in FoodNet, 1996-2003**

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### **Background:**

*Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* are important foodborne bacterial pathogens with a disproportionately high burden in infants (children < 1 year old). We examined the changes in incidence of these infections from 1996 to 2003.

### **Methods:**

Since 1996, the Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet) has conducted active surveillance for laboratory-confirmed cases of infection of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella*. To account for changes in the FoodNet catchment area from 1996 to 2003, a negative binomial model was used to estimate changes in the incidence of infection per 100,000 persons among the general population, and among infants (children <1 year of age) and among persons  $\geq 1$  year of age from 1996 to 2003.

### **Results:**

In 2003, the incidence of *Campylobacter* infections was 12.7 among the general population, 26.9 among infants, and 12.5 among those  $\geq 1$  year of age; a 27% decline (95% confidence interval (CI): 35% decline to 19% decline) among the general population, a 53% decline (95%CI: 66% decline to 35% decline) among infants, and a 2% increase (95% CI: 13% decline to 10% increase) among those  $\geq 1$  year of age when compared to 1996 incidence. In 2003, the incidence of *Salmonella* infections was 14.5 among the general population, 130.2 among infants, and 12.9 among those  $\geq 1$  year of age; a 17% decline (95% CI: 26% decline to 7% decline) among the general population, a 31% decline (95% CI: 47% decline to 11% decline) among infants, and a 10% increase (95% CI: 4% decline to 26% increase) among those  $\geq 1$  year of age when compared to 1996 incidence.

### **Conclusions:**

Among infants, the incidence of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* has declined substantially from 1996 to 2003. These declines far exceed any declines in incidence among those  $\geq 1$  year of age. Nonetheless, the burden of illness remains high in infants. Infants may benefit particularly from general improvements in food safety.